

In the Claims:

The claim listing is now as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method for organizing a dialogue of messages between a moderator and a number of participants in communication over a network comprising:

~~obtaining information about the participants;~~

providing to the participants a question;

receiving from each of one or more sending participants a first-round message in response to the question, said sending participants being those participants who send a first-round message in response to the question;

grouping at least some of the participants into a plurality of groups;

for one or more of the sending participants, automatically sending the received first-round message to one or more ~~receiving~~ other participants with whom the sending participant is grouped; and

receiving from each of one or more of the receiving participants a follow-up message in response to the first-round message from the sending participant.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the groups are based on ~~the~~ registration information entered by participants.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the groups are created randomly.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the groups are created based upon the first-round ~~answers~~ messages.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating the following steps one or more times: sending one or more of the follow-up messages to one or more ~~receiving~~ participants with whom the sender of the follow-up message is grouped and receiving from one or more ~~recipients~~ of such participants who receive the follow-up message a follow-up message in response.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving from at least some of the participants an indication that the question should be used for further discussion.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically routing messages from a particular round to a specialist in the subject matter of the message.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A system for organizing messages created among a moderator and a number of participants in communication over a network, the system comprising:

~~a registration module for obtaining participant registration information;~~

a select audience module for grouping at least some of the participants into groups;

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a question module for providing to participants a question, receiving from one or more of the participants a message in response to the question, sending each of one or more of the messages to one or more receiving participants with whom the sender of the message is grouped, and receiving from one or more of the receiving participants a message in response to the message received by the receiving participant.

Claim 9 (Original): The system of claim 8, wherein the system can repeat the process of receiving and sending messages among grouped participants as desired.

Claim 10 (Original): The system of claim 8, wherein the select audience module groups participants randomly.

Claim 11 (Original): The system of claim 8, wherein the select audience module groups participants based on the message sent in response to the question.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The system of claim 8 17, wherein the select audience module uses registration information to group participants.

Claim 13 (Original): The system of claim 8, further comprising a chat module that allows participants to send messages in real time over the network while respecting usage rules based on user roles.

A¹ Claim 14 (Original): The system of claim 8, further comprising a threaded messaging module that allows messages to be sent, posted, and archived.

Claim 15 (Original): The system of claim 14, wherein messages can be promoted from the question module to the threaded messaging module.

Claim 16 (Original): The system of claim 8, further comprising a chat module that allows participants to send messages in real time over the network, and a threaded messaging module that allows messages to be sent, posted, and archived.

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A Claim 17 (New): The system of claim 8, further comprising a registration module for obtaining participant registration information.